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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,552	12/05/2003	Mark E. Deem	514362000204	4326

7590 06/28/2007
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EXAMINER

YABUT, DIANE D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3734

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/28/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/729,552

Applicant(s)

DEEM ET AL.

Examiner

Diane Yabut

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 31-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 31-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 29 May 2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-12 and 31-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Gambale** (U.S. Pub. No. **20030208209**) in view of **McAlister** (U.S. Patent No. **6,398,795**).

Claims 1-2, 7, 10-12, 31-32, 37, and 40-42: Gambale discloses a tissue positioning device **868** having a first opening or port **860** in a first region for releasably adhering a first area of tissue and a second opening or port **860** for releasably adhering a second area of tissue thereto, the first and second openings being separated by a septum **852**

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at least one fastener **880, 878** housed within the device at least one fastener to be deployed such that the first area of tissue is secured to the second area of tissue via the fastener (Figures 40-42). Gambale discloses the claimed device except for the septum being removable from between the first and second openings and adapted for abrading adjacent tissue.

McAlister teaches a septum **50''**, longitudinally positionable in a slot or common channel of the tissue positioning device, being removable from between first and second openings (Figures 5A-5B). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide a removable septum, as taught by McAlister, to Gambale in order to facilitate appositioning of the tissues after they are separated by the first and second openings or ports as well as to provide selective separation of the first and second areas of tissue. Gambale discloses methods of abrading adjacent tissue selected from the group consisting of cutting, scoring, heating, freezing, and chemical ablation (page 3, paragraphs 24-27), but does not expressly disclose a septum adapted to abrade adjacent tissues. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide a removable septum, as taught by McAlister, that provides the methods of abrading adjacent tissue as disclosed by Gambale, in order to selectively abrade the tissue in order to initiate a healing process on the tissue surfaces.

Claims 3 and 33: Gambale discloses the tissue positioning device defining a plurality of additional regions for adhering additional tissue thereto (Figures 36-37).

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Claims 4 and 34: Gambale discloses the first region and the second region being adjacently located (Figures 40-42).

Claims 5 and 35: Gambale discloses the first area of tissue and the second area of tissue being adhered to the tissue positioning device via a vacuum created in the first region and the second region (pages 16-17, paragraph 171).

Claims 6, 8-9, 36, 38-39: Gambale discloses the first region and the second region being in fluid communication with a common channel **894** defined within the tissue positioning device (Figures 40-42), as well as a plurality of additional fasteners **878, 874** housed within the device which may comprise staples (page 4, paragraph 28).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diane Yabut whose telephone number is (571) 272-6831. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9AM-4PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-4959. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M J Hayes", with a stylized flourish at the end.

MICHAEL J. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER